



## Neighborhood Watch Monthly Newsletter

### March 2008

*It's your community – Get involved!*

#### How to Prevent Being a Victim of a Phishing Scam

An online encyclopedia has the definition of Phishing as the act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft. The e-mail directs the user to visit a Web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and credit card, social security, and bank account numbers, that the legitimate organization already has. The Web site, however, is bogus and set up only to steal the user's information.

For example, 2003 saw the proliferation of a phishing scam in which users received e-mails supposedly from eBay claiming that the user's account was about to be suspended unless he clicked on the provided link and updated the credit card information that the genuine eBay already had. Because it is relatively simple to make a Web site look like a legitimate organizations site by mimicking the HTML code, the scam counted on people being tricked into thinking they were actually being contacted by eBay and were subsequently going to eBay's site to update their account information. By spamming large groups of people, the "phisher" counted on the e-mail being read by a percentage of people who actually had listed credit card numbers with eBay legitimately.

Phishing is the idea that bait is thrown out with the hopes that while most will ignore the bait, some will be tempted into biting. The main goal of a phishing email is to get you to a site where you will provide your personal information.

Stay safe from Phishing! Here are some easy clues to help you keep your personal information secure.

1. Does the email ask you to go to a website and verify personal information? Most companies won't ask you to verify your personal information in response to an email.
2. What is the tone of the mail? Most phishing emails convey a sense of urgency by threatening discontinued service or information loss if you don't take immediate action.
3. What is the quality of the email? Many phishing emails have misspellings, bad grammar, or poor punctuation.
4. Are the links in the email valid? Deceptive links in phishing emails look like they are to a valid site, but deliver you to a fraudulent one. Many times you can see if the link is legitimate by just moving your mouse over the link.
5. Is the email personalized with your name and applicable account information? Many phishing emails use generic salutations and generic information (e.g. "Dear Customer" or "Dear Account Holder") instead of your name.
6. What is the sender's email address? Many phishing emails come from an email address not from the company represented in the email.
7. If you suspect an email to be phishing, don't click on any links in the email. Just hit delete.

Tips brought to you by the Sandy City Police Department, Crime Prevention Bureau

## February 2008

Sandy City Offenses	Alta		Bell		Crescent		Sandy		Total
	Flat Iron	Canyon	Dimple Dell	Bluff	Auto Mall	South Towne	Jordan	Historic	
Aggravated Assault	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
Alcohol Offenses	3	0	0	2	4	4	9	11	33
Animal Problems	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	6
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Burglary	6	1	2	4	1	1	2	9	26
Death Calls	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Disorderly	1	5	0	0	3	6	12	3	30
Domestics	8	12	3	3	4	5	9	20	64
Drug Offenses	6	1	1	0	24	3	32	29	96
Forgeries & Frauds	3	1	0	0	2	2	5	6	19
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Problems	3	3	2	2	21	1	20	17	69
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property Offenses	7	6	1	8	16	10	20	22	90
Protective Orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Sex offenses	2	3	2	0	1	0	4	4	16
Simple Assault	8	7	1	3	7	5	17	14	62
Suspicious Calls	1	1	1	1	5	4	2	2	17
Theft	17	10	4	4	31	42	21	35	164
Threats	1	3	0	2	6	2	7	6	27
Traffic Crashes	15	15	7	1	40	19	64	35	196
Trespassing	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	6
Vehicle Burglary	10	3	3	2	4	3	13	37	75
Vehicle Theft	1	0	0	2	4	2	4	6	19
Warrant Service	2	2	0	0	7	3	14	19	47
Weapons Offense	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	3	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1,081</b>

**Flat Iron-** 1300 E to the East border, North border to 9400 S; **Canyon-** 1300 E to the East border, 9400 S to the Gully; **Dimple Dell-** 1300 E to the East border, 10350 S to 11400 S; **Bluff-** 1300 E to the East border, 11400 S to South border; **South Towne-** West border to 1300 E, Gully to 10600 S; **Auto Mall-** West border to 1300 E, 10600 S to South border; **Historic-** West border to 1300 E, North border to 9000 S; **Jordan-** West border to 1300 E, 9000 S to the Gully

### Upcoming Quarterly Training Meeting

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

Police Training Room (City Hall, East Entrance)